Please cancel current claims 1-51, and enter the following new claims. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-51. Cancelled.

52. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a fusion polypeptide capable of specifically binding vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), comprising

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a first VEGF receptor component;

(b) a nucleotide sequence encoding a second VEGF receptor component; and

(c) a nucleotide sequence encoding a multimerizing component.

53. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 52, wherein the first VEGF receptor component comprises Ig domain 2 of VEGF receptor Flt1.

54. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 52, wherein the first VEGF receptor component comprises Ig domain 3 of VEGF receptor Flk1 or Flt4.

55. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 52, wherein (a) the nucleotide sequence encoding a first VEGF receptor component is upstream of (b) the nucleotide sequence encoding a second VEGF receptor component.

56. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 52, wherein (a) the nucleotide sequence encoding a first VEGF receptor component is downstream of (b) the nucleotide sequence encoding a second VEGF receptor component.

57. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 52, wherein the multimerizing component comprises an immunoglobulin domain.

58. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 57, wherein the immunoglobulin domain is selected from the group consisting of the Fc domain of IgG, the heavy chain of IgG, and the light chain of IgG.

59. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 52, comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected

from:

(a) SEQ ID NOs:3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, or 15; and

(b) nucleic acid sequences which, as a result of the degeneracy of the genetic code, differ from the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs:3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, or 15.

60. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 52, wherein the components of the fusion polypeptide are arranged as 1,2,3; 1,3,2; 2,1,3; 2,3,1; 3,1,2; or 3,2,1, wherein 1 is the first VEGF receptor component, 2 is the second VEGF receptor component, and 3 is the multimerizing component.

61. (New) A fusion polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of claim 52.

62. (New) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising the fusion polypeptide of claim 61 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

63. (New) A dimer comprising two of the fusion polypeptides of claim 61.

64. (New) An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 52.

65. (New) A host-vector system for the production of a fusion polypeptide comprising the

expression vector of claim 65, in a suitable host cell.

66. (New) The host-vector system of claim 65, wherein the host cell is a bacterial cell, yeast cell, insect cell, or mammalian cell.

67. (New) The host-vector system of claim 66, wherein the host cell is selected from the group consisting of *E. coli* and CHO.

68. (New) A method of producing a fusion polypeptide, comprising growing cells of the host-vector system of claim 65, under conditions permitting production of the fusion polypeptide and recovering the fusion polypeptide so produced.

69. (New) A dimeric vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) antagonist capable of specifically binding VEGF, comprising two fusion polypeptides, each fusion polypeptide comprising:

(a) a first VEGF receptor component;

(b) a second VEGF receptor component; and

(c) a multimerizing component.

70. (New) The dimeric antagonist of claim 69, wherein the first VEGF receptor component comprises Ig domain 2 of VEGF receptor Flt1.

71. (New) The dimeric antagonist of claim 69, wherein the first VEGF receptor component comprises Ig domain 3 of VEGF receptor Flk1 or Flt4.

72. (New) The dimeric antagonist of claim 69, which is modified by acetylation or pegylation.

73. (New) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising the fusion polypeptide of claim 69 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

74. (New) A method of inhibiting vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) activity in a mammal, comprising administering the pharmaceutical composition of claim 73.

75. (New) The method of claim 74, wherein the mammal is a human.

76. (New) A method of inhibiting tumor growth in a mammal, comprising administering the pharmaceutical composition of claim 73.

77. (New) A fusion polypeptide capable of inhibiting vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) activity, comprising:

(a) a first VEGF receptor component;

(b) a second VEGF receptor component; and

(c) a multimerizing component.

78. (New) The fusion polypeptide of claim 77, wherein the first VEGF receptor component is Ig domain 2 of VEGF receptor Flt1.

79. (New) The fusion polypeptide of claim 77, wherein the first VEGF receptor component is Ig domain 3 of VEGF receptor Flk1 or Flt4.

80. (New) The fusion polypeptide of claim 77, wherein the multimerizing component comprises an immunoglobulin domain.

81. (New) The fusion polypeptide of claim 80, wherein the immunoglobulin domain is selected

from the group consisting of the Fc domain of IgG, the heavy chain of IgG, and the light chain of IgG.

82. (New) The fusion polypeptide of claim 77, comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12 or 16.

83. (New) A method of producing a fusion polypeptide which specifically binds a target protein, comprising the steps of:

a) identifying Ig domains of a first receptor protein which first receptor protein binds the target protein;

b) identifying Ig domains of a second receptor protein which second receptor protein binds the target protein;

c) producing a fusion protein of an Ig domain of the first receptor protein and an Ig domain of the second receptor protein;

d) determining if the produced fusion protein binds the target protein; and

e) repeating (a)-(d) to obtain the fusion protein that specifically bind the target protein.

84. (New) The method of claim 83, wherein the first receptor protein is chosen from Flt1.

85. (New) The method of claim 83, wherein the second receptor protein is chosen from Flk1 and Flt4.

86. (New) The method of claim 83, wherein the fusion protein is produced by expression of operatively positioned nucleotide sequences encoding the Ig domain of the first and second receptor proteins.

87. (New) The method of claim 83, wherein the fusion protein further comprises an immunoglobulin domain.

88. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the immunoglobulin domain is chosen from the Fc domain of IgG, they heavy chain of IgG, and the light chain of IgG.

89. (New) The fusion protein produced by the method of claim 83.

90. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically acceptable amount of the fusion protein of claim 89.

91. (New) A method of treatment comprising administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of the composition of claim 90.